

Strengthening cross-fertilisation of policy-making
across sectors to support sustainable blue growth:
lessons from ESPON Compass

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'... there is a need to join forces ... not only on various scales, but also from multiple areas of expertise, and various sectors and policy domains, while involving various stakeholders and policy implementers'.

Integration

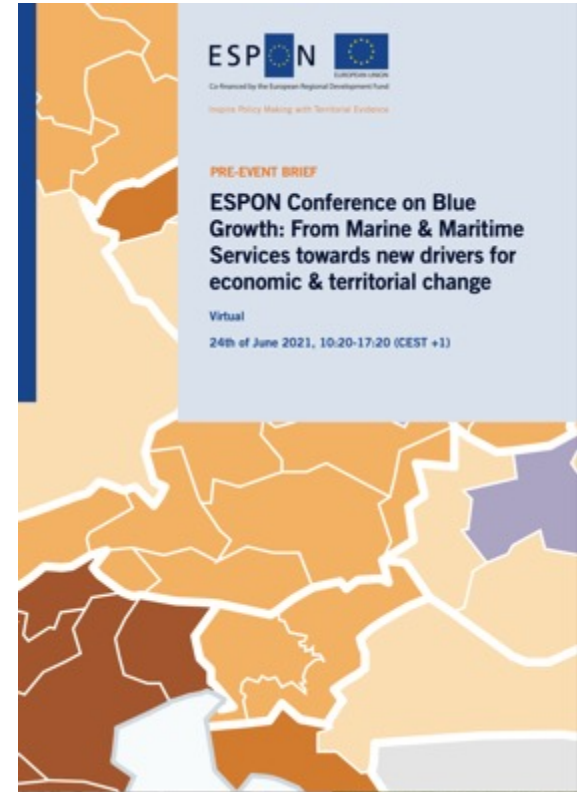
- vertically across scales
- horizontally across sectors
- geographically across boundaries

Engagement

- stakeholders
- policy makers
- investors

Adaptive tools

- not rigid but responsive



Did we underestimate the task?

1992 UN Agenda 21 – need for integrated policy making for coastal zone – ‘...includes cooperation and coordination between the multitude of government departments, ministries and agencies...’

1993 OECD ICZM case studies ... and more...

EXAMPLE: In England there are at least 80 acts of Parliament & 240 government departments & agencies dealing with just the coastal zone

(Cullingworth and Nadin 2006)

Not surprising that policies collide and clash – and rarely combine

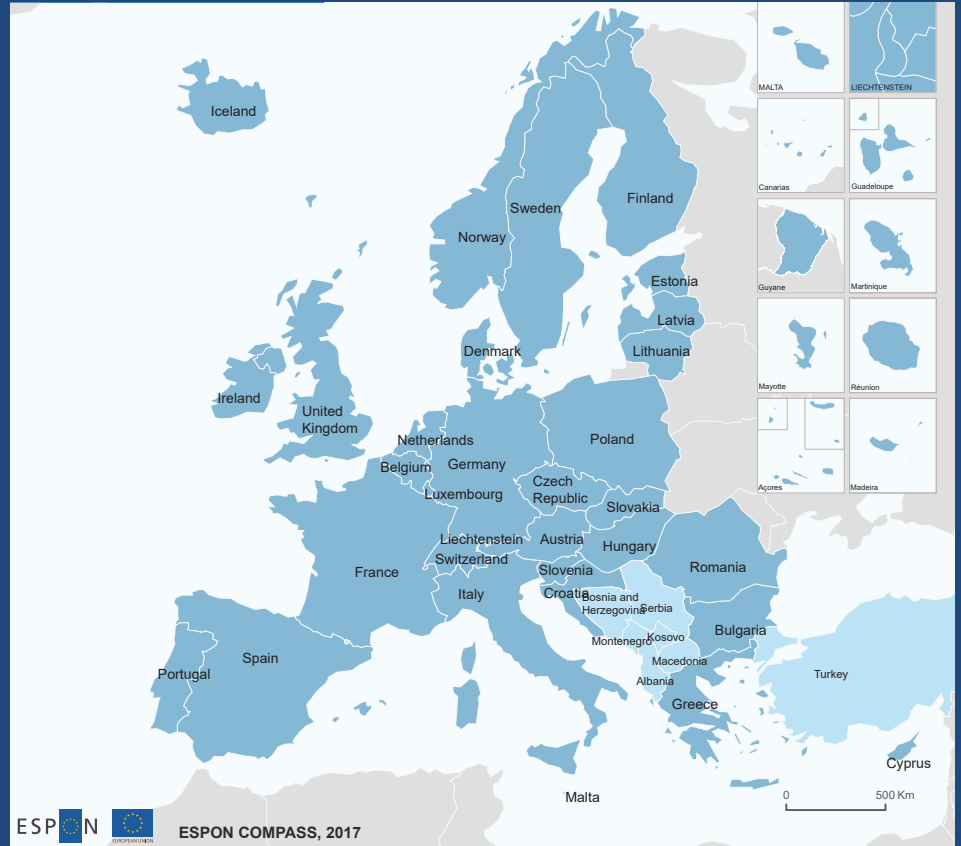
What progress are we making on improving our tools for integrated policy making in Europe?

2018 ESPON Compass

comparison of reforms in spatial planning systems 2000-2016

Analysis of 32 ESPON countries + overview for 7 additional countries

Very general findings – e.g. they do not address differences in approach and performance in sub-national areas.



ESPO COMPASS

2021 'Dialogue with experts & Policy Brief – on the way

On practical steps that can be taken to strengthen relations
between sectoral policies including spatial planning &
Cohesion Policy

How good are we at joining up?

reported trends in the performance of spatial planning and territorial governance in
integrating sectoral policies 2000-16

	1	2	3	4	5 FR	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13 EL	14	15	16	17	18	19 SK	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32 CZ		
Ensure Integration																																		
Coordination leading to adjustment																																		
Cooperation with adjustment																																		
Provide information resources																																		
No integration																																		

Experts report that in most countries there was a general increase in attention to policy integration during the period 2000-2016, especially from (i) simple *exchange of information* to *cooperation on, or coordination of sectoral policies*

Source: Nadin et al. 2018, and 2020

How good are we at joining up?

Spatial planning relationship with other sector policies

The assessment of the integration of spatial planning with other sectoral policies at national (N), sub-national (S) and local levels (L) required experts to use a four-point scale

- integrated** (i.e. targeted at similar policy goals)
- coordinated** (i.e. visible efforts to align policies and measures)
- informed** (i.e. making references to other policy documents)
- neglected** (i.e. no tangible relations or recognition)

There are few patterns.





Tools for sectoral policy integration

Photo: SS Great Britain, Bristol; Toolbox, VN

Tools

Preconditions

good governance
political will
capacity

Address negative impacts of current plans

e.g. development in high risk areas
e.g. perverse subsidies

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Monitoring & assessment of investment and decisions

Get it on political agenda

Harmonise
language

Share data, units of measurement &
performance criteria

Informal cooperation
platforms

Formal cooperation platforms

Obligations and conditional funding

Short-term

Medium

Long-term

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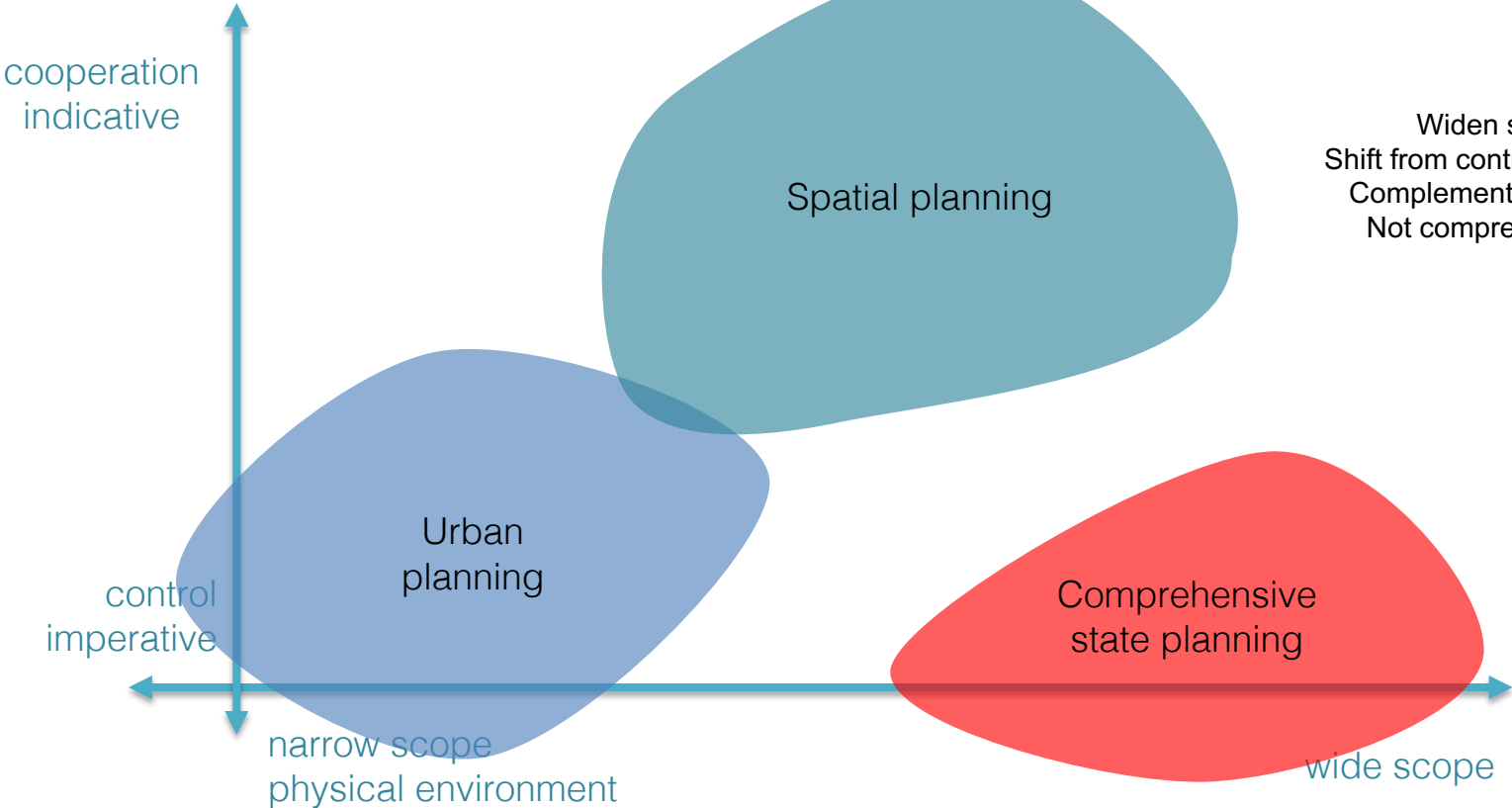
Reform planning tools

Short-term

Medium

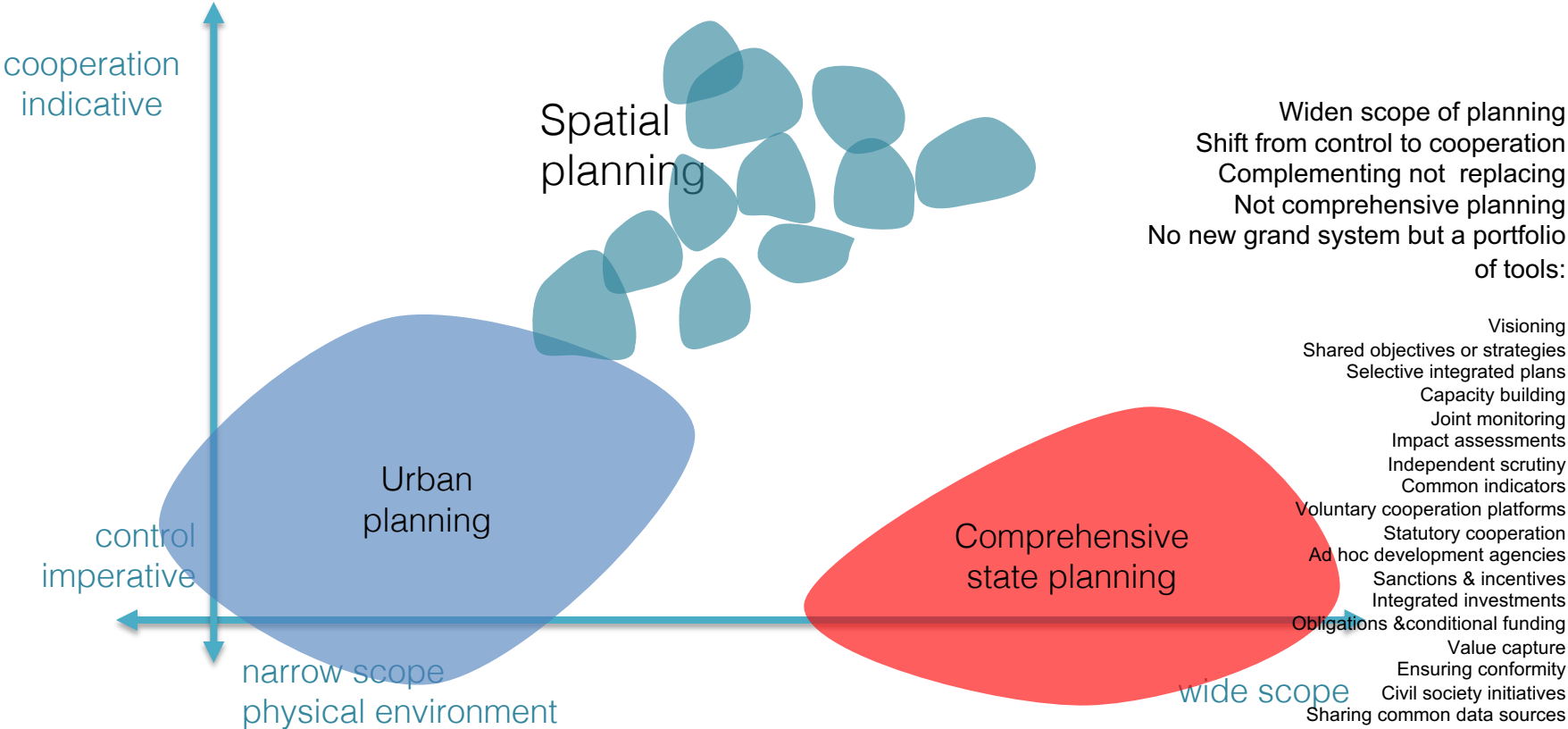
Long-term

Reforming planning tools



Widen scope of planning
Shift from control to cooperation
Complementing not replacing
Not comprehensive planning

Reforming planning tools



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